

How to make your business more SUSTAINABLE



◀ The team at Roush Fenway Racing uses LEDs to brighten their facility while staying cost efficient. Want to brighten up your space? Fastenal can help.

Whether your driving force is to help the planet or you just want to reduce expenses, sustainability has something for everyone. Cutting back on freight costs? That's money saved and fewer emissions. Customers signing up for paperless invoicing? That's cost savings on postage and less paper used. Sustainability serves many purposes in a business.

STEPS TO SUSTAINABILITY

-  Identify areas within your spending that offer the greatest opportunities.
-  Find local suppliers to support your efforts. They can help with simply identifying environmentally friendly products or even calculating the effect that making a switch would have.
-  Designate an employee to lead the effort. In theory, everyone on your team could be advocating sustainable business practices, but it helps to have someone in charge and keeping the momentum going.
-  Work directly with employees, purchasers, and managers to coordinate and educate key stakeholders to support the cause.
-  Let people know what you are doing. Tell your extended team, your customers, and your community. Create a conversation around the solutions you used to become more sustainable.

WHAT TO EXPECT



REDUCED CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY, FUEL, AND MATERIALS



BOOSTED PRODUCTIVITY FROM PROCESS CHANGES AND BEHAVIOR CHANGES



LOWER OPERATING COSTS FOR FOUR REASONS
*Less consumption
 Less waste
 Added efficiencies
 Improved performance*



INCREASED EMPLOYEE MORALE



BOOSTED BRAND IMAGE



POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

See where you can improve

Reduction, recycling, and conservation can all help keep the ecological balance in line while also improving the bottom line. Use this checklist to mark the items you are already doing. Then go after the unchecked areas that would be the easiest to implement. Finally, look for any that would have a big effect on your business. Those are where the biggest savings are likely hiding.

REUSE

- Reuse incoming packaging materials whenever you can. *(Think cardboard, polystyrene, shredded paper, air bags, etc.)*
- Switch to reusable totes.
- Reuse pallets. Even consider repairing some if you're able.
- Switch to printer paper that contains at least 30% recycled content.

RECYCLE

- Recycle office paper.
- Work with IT to recycle computers and electronics properly or donate them for reuse.
- Use signs for an added visual boost to help people properly sort glass, plastic, and aluminum.
- Recycle spent fluorescent lamps, ballasts, and batteries. Shop recycling kits on Fastenal.com.
- Recycle printer cartridges.
- Find a source to recycle your pallets that are no longer usable. Many communities have woodworking groups that will offer to pick up old pallets for free.

WE CAN HELP!

Go to
www.fastenal.com/recycle

REDUCE

- Switch to LED light bulbs. According to the Department of Energy, LED bulbs can use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting.
- Have some sunlight? Turn off the lights if possible.
- Design delivery routes that minimize miles traveled and consumption of fuel.
- Look for vendors who also minimize the length of distribution routes.
- Have computers, monitors, and printers go to sleep after 15 minutes of inactivity.
- Set printers to print on both sides of paper as a default.
- Replace standard air filters with high-efficiency ones.
- Encourage customers to sign up for electronic invoicing to reduce paper usage.
- Repair or replace any leaky water pipes, toilets, or sinks to avoid water waste.

WOOD OR PLASTIC?



UNSURE WHICH TO USE?

Recent studies say wood pallets are the more environmentally friendly option.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Even when disposed of in a landfill, a wood pallet is still more environmentally friendly than a primary plastic pallet.

For plastic pallets, the biggest environmental impacts were: melting and molding of the plastic, primary plastic production, transport to processing, and cooling of the plastic.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S004896971932532X#t0050>

FIND MORE HELP ONLINE

Fastenal.com can help you pick products that promote sustainability through each of the following.

- Energy conservation
- Green cleaning and maintenance
- Waste reduction
- Water conservation



Look for the leaf on Fastenal.com to find environmentally preferable products.

START SWITCHING TO SUSTAINABILITY TODAY!